## FIGHTING THEM OVER.

What Our Veterans Have to Say About Their Old Campaigns.

BATTLE OF LEWISBURG.

Col. Crook's Well-won Victory Over a Largely Superior Force. EDITOR NATIONAL TRIBUNE: In the latter part of May, 1862 we were in camp on the top of the hill west of Lewisburg, W. Va. The force

then consisted of the 36th and 44th Ohio, one company of the 1st W. Va. Cav., and two or three mountain howitzers. Lewisburg is the Countyseat of Greenbrier County, and is a pretty little town, built mostly on the west slope of a beautiful valley, high up among the mountains. Cornfields and meadows come up to its suburbs, and a beautiful grove of oaks adorn the hill south of the town. The slope on which the town stands is mostly gentle, while north for a long distance are rolling fields. It is a delightful spot so far as nature can contribute to that end. The village is on either side of the pike, a single street, which winds down the steep hill west of the town and runs straight up the slope. A street crosses this at right-angles near the center of the village. Many of the houses are substantially built of red brick. East of town about three miles the pike crosses Greenbrier River on a wooden bridge. Here an outpost was stationed, and on the top of the hill east of town there was also an inner picket in sight of camp across the

On the morning of May 23, as we were falling in at reveille, looking over to the east and against the brightening sky, we saw the flash of a gun, followed in quick succession by several others. The report of the discharges was borne to us faintly on the chilly morning air, while our pickets were seen to retreat toward us, keeping up the fire for a short time with a line of skirmishers which rapidly deployed along the hilltops, their outlines showing sharply against a background of sky growing brighter by the rapid approach of sunrise. Before the company roll had been called the

BEAT THE LONG ROLL,

and I heard the clear, sharp voice of Col, Crook, shrill as a bugle, or perhaps more like the crack of a whip, commanding "Fall in!" Almost before our company (E) was formed, Capt. Palmer passed down our street at double-quick, their harness rattling and rifles glittering in the bright light of the sun that had just peeped shove the eastern hills. They were going at a rattling pace to their maiden battle, under the lead of their splendid Captain.

From a variety of contending emotions I could scarcely keep my teeth from chattering. | the foot of Mission Ridge. The morning was cool to begin with, and we could see the enemy deploying a line of battle east of and overlooking the village that was at companies of our regiment (Co. A being absent)

nerves in common with the rest, I think. badly that I did not take in the whole situation utes clapsed till we were moving straight for the town and the center of the rebel line at the egular swing of the soldier on parade, a step that never burries, but covers the ground

WITH MARVELOUS RAPIDITY.

It was magnificent. I ceased to shiver. I had made up my mind before I ever saw a fight that I should be nervous, but I overcame my "buck ague," as the hunters call it, easier than I expected. I took no delight in it, perhaps, but I found that I could go through it with the

The rear of the regiment had not got entirely out of camp till a shell from the rebel battery exploded over the rear company, doing no harm, however. It was the first I had ever heard, but the emotions it started I had not time to analyze. Col. Crook led the 44th to the right of the town, showed them where to form, and was back with us as we filed to the left at the cross-street, never changing our measured but rapid stride. Just as our company was passing into the cross-street a shell came whizging down the main street, causing some men to dodge in a very undignified manner. When we turned off from the main road we were fairly hidden from the rebel line of battle by a rise of ground. Emerging from among the houses we saw Co. G deployed to the left as skirmishers. In a moment we were in line and at about the same moment the 44th opened on the enemy on the right of the town, there being space in the center unoccupied, because we did not have troops enough to cover it.

Here Crook's horse became unmanageable and plunged with him into a mud-hole, near a tannery. He dismounted and left him, going in with us on foot. Reaching the top of the little bank before mentioned, we came suddenly in view of the whole rebel line in front and to the left of us; that to the right, in front of the 44th, was partly hidden by the formation of the ground and partly by intervening houses. The main line was posted behind a rail fence on top of the hill, beyond a cornfield, with skirmishers thrown to the front. Their fank reached far beyond our left, and there were the cavalry bearing down on us across the undulating fields still farther to the left, and only held in check by the skirmishers of Co. G.

The moment we came in view the rebels opened on us with a volley all along the line, but their balls fell short, only digging up the ground in front of us. The range was too great for their smooth-bore muskets. Not so with our rifles. Our reply told on them. The men were disposed to stop and load, but the voice of Crook rang out clear and distinct,

"LOAD AS YOU GO!"

The men were as yet quiet; not a word was spoken in ranks; all were intensely engaged in the business before them. They were in their first battle, and, as they could see, fought against great odds. Defeat would be disastrous. We treat over mountains in our rear. Each man moment, when the fire was hottest, did I see a Captain and a squad of men huddle behind a small building. Some one called out, "That wont do!" when the Captain recovered himself and urged the men forward.

had been hit, but recovering himself he limped on, the same clear ring in his voice. We moved steadily forward, each man loading and firing as we advanced up the gentle open slope through and over the small growing corn. Presently, when within perhaps 100 yards of the fence behind which the rebels had formed, they rose at first one or two at a time, and dropped back out of sight; then they began to go in squads, and soon the

WHOLE LINE BROKE AND RAN. Then we raised a cheer and took the doublemen; preserve your alignment!" and we swept | battery, which duty the brigade performed in over the top of that hill, in 45 minutes from | the most heroic manner. the opening of the battle, like a regiment on disorganized mob that frantically flung away

The pursuit was kept up to the river, the road of Aug. 16, as appeared in THE NATIONAL the Potomac, Venaugo, Pa. being strewn with everything that could be TRIBUNE of Oct. 7. thrown away to hasten flight. They burned That the above is actually and literally true the bridge over Greenbrier river and still con- is well known to Col. Phillips, who is now livtinued their disorderly retreat, though the puring in Hillsboro, Ill., and to Gen. Logan, besuit ended at the river. We returned to camp | sides many others who have not taken any to a late breakfast, confident that we could whip part in the controversy regarding the recapanything. Regimental pride took a new birth. ture of the De Gress battery. The above is a

six pieces of artillery. We had nine companies know him best. -P. Winson, Adjutant, Stan- Eben also gave five, who were less fortunate. of the 36th, less than 800 men, and the 44th ton Post, No. 23, Fergus Falls, Minn. Ohio, about 700 men-say 1,500 men engaged. We buried on the field between 90 and 100 of

123 wounded, besides 130 prisoners. We lost 12 killed and 60 wounded, many of them only After three years of campaigning I look back

to the battle of Lewisburg as the MOST PERFECT LITTLE FIGHT chance for a dispute as to the forces engaged or who won the battle. We swept the field in so short a time with so small a loss to ourselves

ever be regarded as a most brilliant affair, and justly won renown for Gen. Crook. There were good reasons for our brilliant achievements. The 36th Ohio was in a high state of discipline. Constant exercise had not only made them expert in the handling of their rifles, but had hardened their muscles almost to the condition of gladiators. Then, the regiment was a machine, that answered the commander's voice as readily and kindly as does a well-trained circus horse the voice of his master. Knowing these things, the commander had only to keep his own head and the evolutions of his regiment were assured. They would respond to his voice with alacrity and precision troubled by a doubt or an "if." Then, instead of desultory firing and manuvering for position, as was the fashion, the Colonel boldly took up the gage of battle on their own chosen ground, and marched to meet the enemy as gaily as a brideand correspondingly depressed them. They

Obio, Summerfield, O. MISSION RIDGE.

were no doubt astonished by our audacity, for

they could count our numbers and see we

were inferior in that respect. A bold dash by a

bold commander directing perfectly-disciplined

troops were the conditions that won at Lewis-

burg.-A. R. PHILLIPS, Sergeant, Co. E, 36th

Where the First Break was Made in the Confederate Line.

EDITOR NATIONAL TRIBUNE: As Comrade S. A. McNeil, 31st Ohio, in your issue of Oct. 14, 1886, invites the men of Sheridan's and Wood's Divisions to "fire by file," I will take my turn. I would like to know from some source, official or otherwise, who really did break the rebel line at Mission Ridge. I was a member of the First Brigade (Willich's), Third Division, Fourth Corps. The brigade was composed of the following regiments, which were formed in line of battle in this charge as named here: 32d Ind., 49th Ohio, 8th Kan., 25th Ill., 15th Wis., 35th Ill., 15th and 63d Ohio, and 89th Ill. I do not know the exact location of Gen. Bragg's headquarters. Our brigade formed as above, first named on the right, and so on to the left. We started the advance from a knoll I in front of Fort Wood, called by us Apple Knob. Our advance was rather to the left for a mile or more; then for a third of a mile strongly to a right-oblique, until we came to

If I understood the formation of our division on that day, Beatty's Brigade was directly on our right and Hazen's on the right of Beatty. least twice as long as ours would be with nine I thought at the time that the 32d Ind. and 49th Ohio broke the rebel line, but have since and the 44th Ohio. We could see the horses of been told that either Beatty or Hazen first the artillery wheel at a sharp trot as they | broke it. I am still of opinion the rebel works swung round, and in no time six pieces were in were first occupied by the 32d Ind. and 49th position to the right of the pike beyond the Ohio, or their immediate neighbors on their grove, while from the trees far to the left de- right; also, that the rebel line was broken just bouched a squadron of cavalry outnumbering where the Dalton dirt road crossed the ridge. our little band of that arm at least five to one. Prior to our advance I understood that Bragg's Our howitzers, mounted on mules, were useless. headquarters was located on the ridge at that him in assuming the supreme command. Called out of my blanket, where I had been crossing. I know as well as I know anything sleeping, to face the chilly air and have what that the 49th Ohio and 32d Ind. were over the seemed a hopeless battle thrust upon us before rebel works and had the rebels on the run when I had even time to wash my face, tried my we (the 25th Ill.) reached the line. At that time there were no live rebels just there, but I shivered; perhaps I was scared, but not so quite a number of dead ones. The most prominent one was Lieut.-Col. Porchen, of the 10th and estimate the chances as largely in favor of S. C. Lieut. Alex. South, of Co. F, 25th Ill., our getting nicely whipped. Only a few min- and myself learned his rank and regiment from papers on his person. He was shot through the

> To more clearly establish my statement that there was no fighting rebels in our immediate front, I ran up to where the ridge began to ascend toward Dalton, and did so without being halted or hindered. Upon reaching the summit I espied three rebels getting away with a cannon. My Enfield being loaded I fired at the bunch. My shot, or some one's else, killed the swing horse and caused them to cut the five living horses loose and leave the gun, which proved to be a 24-pound brass piece that had been captured from some one of our batteries at Stone River, if my memory is correct.

Looking to the left of where we had passed through the rebel breastworks and immediately in front of the 35th Ill, and 15th Wis., which were at our immediate left on the advance in the valley, Comrade Walker and the writer could see plenty of rebels in their rifle-pits stampede of the entire rebel force visible from that point, numbering anywhere from 300 to 1,000. I am of opinion that Gen. Bragg knew we were there. As to any repulse as spoken of in the quoted report of Gen. Bragg, there is not a shadow of correctness in it. There was not a halt made nor anything approaching a repulse until the line of advance reached the foot of Mission Ridge, and then only long enough to catch our breath. As if by common impulse the whole line moved for the crest of the Ridge. However, our part of the line went in an irregular manner, every fellow, as it were, for himself, owing to the roughness of the ground over which we had to pass. It was covered with stones, logs, briers and bushes until within 50 or 75 yards of the rebel works,

where the ground was more smooth. I am not prepared to say where Gen. Tur-chin's Brigade was, from us, but am quite satisfied that the rebel line was broken very near the right of the position occupied by the right of Willich's Brigade and that it must have been done by the 32d Iud. and 49th Ohio or those on their immediate right. I will add that the 49th and 32d went up Mission Ridge more like a machine than a body of men. mean their movement was so perfect, never, I believe, halting until their part of the work was accomplished.—Thos. A. Mayes, First Sergeant, Co. E, 25th Ill., Urbana, O.

COL. MERSEY'S BRIGADE,

And What It Did Under Col. Adams at Atlanta. EDITOR NATIONAL TRIBUNE: At a regular meeting of Stanton Post, No. 33, Fergus Falls, Minn., held Sept. 17, Comrade R. N. Adams, who took an active and important part in the battle of Atlanta, July 22, 1864, gave a description of the charge made by the Second Brigade, Second Division, Sixteenth Corps on that day, were far from support, with a long line of re- the command of which fell upon him just as the brigade reached the board fence on the acted as if it all depended on him. Only for a right of the railroad where Col. Mersey, commanding the brigade, was wounded and his horse killed. Comrade Adams was at that time Lieutenant-Colonel of the 81st Ohio, and because of the fact that Lieut.-Col. J. J. Phillips, of the 9th Ill., who outranked Col. Adams in Crook's sharp voice urging us on attracted | the brigade, had been detailed on staff duty my attention. I looked at him a moment, and | with Gen. Dodge, commanding Sixteenth Corps, | and saved the terrible struggle for the occuin that moment he faltered-almost fell. He he (Lieut.-Col. Adams) was next in rank to Col. Mersey.

As is well known, that part of the line occupied by Lightburn's Brigade of the Second Division of the Fifteenth Corps gave way and the battery of 20-pounder Parrotts, known as De that he lost nearly half his corps of 10,000 men, Gress's, which had been posted on the right of and brings this in as evidence of the hard the brick house and within our earthworks, fighting that was done by his corps. No one had been taken by the rebels. The brigade of Col. Mersey was at that time holding a position on the left flank of the Seventeenth Corps, and was ordered by Gen. Logan, personally, to move on the double-quick to the place where But what say the widows and orphans all over Lightburn's Brigade had broken, and to charge the country, made such by the death of nearly quick. Col. Crook's voice rang out, "Steady, the enemy there and recapture the De Gress

After Col. Mersey was wounded, Col. Adams parade, pouring volley after volley into the formed his men along the line of the board fence, charged the enemy and recaptured the all incumbrances and wiidly sought safety in | battery. The men of Co. I, 81st Ohio, were the first men who reached the guns and turned On the right the performance of the 44th was and fired them upon the retreating enemy. no less brilliant. So rapidly did they rush on Col. Adams's command held this position until the battery that two of the gunners were killed | nightfall. Shortly after the charge was made with the lanyards grasped in their hands, the pieces remaining undischarged. Four of the back to his brigade and took command of it; six pieces of artillery were taken by the 44th, hence his report of the action of the brigade and their supports hurled back in confusion. on the 22d of July, which he made under date formerly at Headquarters Fifth Corps, Army of

Col. Crook became our idol, and the prestige of copy of a part of the minutes of the meeting of served through the war, and came home, one of that victory perched on our banners always. | the Post above named, and is recorded there | them having been wounded. Elihu gave five The rebels had in this fight 3,000 men, com- that justice may be done a brave and conscienmanded by Gen. Heth, who was wounded, and tious soldier and his command, by those who out whole as to limb, but broken in health.

All infections of the blood are removed by | Charles City Court house, another was taken the enemy, and there were left in our hands | Ayer's Sarsaparilla. Sold by all druggists.

SICKLES AT GETTYSBURG. slightly, and six or seven missing, captured at | His Claim Sharply Controverted by a Pennsylvania Comrade.

EDITOR NATIONAL TRIBUNE: I regret very much that a soldier of the standing and bravery of Maj.-Gen. Sickles should utter, in plain view it was ever my fortune to see. There was no of the Gettysburg battlefield, on the 23d anniversary of that fight, such words as he spoke to the assembled thousands of his soldiers and hearers and to the world. I have always looked and so great a one to the enemy that it must | upon the true soldier as the embodiment of unselfish devotion to his cause and his country, caring only for the success of that cause and that country, and not for self-vindication or for glorifying his own deeds and acts before the world. Take the example of many of our bravest and noblest corps commanders in the Army of the Potomac-Gen. Warren for an example, who, though cruelly treated and relieved of his command just at the moment when he with his famous corps had snatched victory from the enemy, although traduced by soldiers and civilians, yet his mouth was scaled, his pen was silent through all the years of extreme tension and trial which weighed upon his sensitive nature, until death finally came to In a word, he could rely on them without being his relief. But here we have, after 23 years, when many of the principal actors in the great battle have passed away, and especially the voices of those whom Maj.-Gen. Sickles accuses are forever silent and they cannot defend themselves or correct any of his statements, this groom to meet his bride. This inspired us gallant General delivers a long speech at Gettysburg in self-glorification and in glorification of his corps.

We would not pluck a single laurel, if we could, from the crown of Gen. Sickles or the Third Corps. History has long since assigned himself and his troops an honorable and glorious position in the greatest battle of the century. But why should he arise now and claim the whole world? Why should be proclaim to the veterans and to the people of America that he alone fought the battle of Gettysburg? That is the only inference I can gather from his speech. He takes all the responsibility and lays claim to all the honor (if honor there be in taking an unauthorized position) of the salient at the Peach Orchard.

It seems to me that the language of Gen. Sickles is rather in the boasting vein, as though he said: "I fought the battle of Gettysburg. I took my own position on my own responsibility and fought it out on that line." the fact is that Gen. Meade ordered Sickles to take a position which would be a prolongation of the general line of Cometery Ridge from the Cemetery to the two Round Tops. The order was a verbal one, as, in the rush and hurry of battle and of forming lines, no commanding General has much time to write orders. Here was a sudden concentration of troops and a sudden battle imminent.

Gen. Meade, who had, by virtue of orders from the President of the United States, been placed in command of the Army of the Potomac, had had long experience in that army as a brigade, division, and corps commander, and had by his quiet, soldierly and scholarly habits won the confidence of the troops whom he commanded. Unexpectedly to him he, a Pennsylvanian, was called to the head of that grand historic army which was to repel the invasion of his native State. With the same spirit of diffidence, yet with a desire to serve his country in whatever position he was called GRANT, Akron, O. to serve, Gen. Meade took charge of that great army. We must place ourselves in Gen. Meade's position in order to realize the selfsacrifice and the noble character displayed by

he was not present at the opening of the battle of Gettysburg, and that his first design of defense was the line of Pipe Creek. Of course Gen. Meade could not surmise for a surety the position of Gen. Lee, or what offensive attitude he might assume, until his plans were developed by Gens. Buford, Reynolds and Howard on the first day of the battle. Hancock came up on the second day, especially charged with orders from Gen. Meade to establish a line of battle in the most practicable spot. In carrying out the instructions of his chief, after consulting the corps commanders who had been on the field and fought, it was determined to accept the gage of battle at Gettysburg; and Meade began hurrying up his troops as rapidly as possible. Arriving on the field he ordered Sickles to take a position on the prolongated ridge leading from Cemetery Hill to the Round Tops. Instead of so doing Sickles, with his Third Corps, marched out toward the Emmittsburg road and formed his lines in advance of the main line of battle, compelling his troops to form the salient whose angle rested in front of the Peach Orchard and his right in front of the Emmittsburg pike, his left refused toward Little Round Top. Sickles no doubt misinter-preted the verbal order from Meade, and there is no doubt that his intentions were good; but firing down the ridge toward Chattanooga. it is an acknowledged maxim in war that ad-Walker and I both fired into them, causing a vanced salients are very dangerous positions in the face of an offensive foe, as we all understand Lee's army was at that time.

But here was presented the anomaly of the Third Corps already posted on a line in front, and while a council of war was being held at Meade's headquarters as to the best means of withdrawing Sickles's troops, the enemy burst suddenly on his advanced line, and it was thought best to try and maintain the position, now that it had been occupied, rather than risk the hazard of a retreat in the face of a sanguine and determined foe, who was already pressing hard on our lines at that point, and endeavoring to penetrate at every point of division between the positions of our troops. At this supreme moment in the great contest, the battle of the giants, Gen. Sickles complains bitterly of non-support from the commanding General, and that he and his corps had to fight alone, and that on that day (the 2d of July) the Third

Corps fought the battle of Gettysburg! It is, however, a fact of history that some other troops aside from Sickles's fought some at Gettysburg. We would not detract one iota from the record of gallantry and bravery exhibited by Sickles and his corps on that immortal field. Meade, our loved and revered commander, has long since passed over to his last camping ground, and most of the actors along the bloody front at Gettysburg, who both assisted Sickles and who stood with their troops like an iron wall to hurl back the invading columns, have passed away. But who can gainsay the facts of history? As soon as Meade saw and realized the hazard to which Sickles had exposed his Third Corps he, instead of leaving him to fight alone in an isolated position, ordered up all the available troops and reserves to his support—the Fifth Corps, the Sixth Corps, and Humphreys's Division of the Second Corps, all to save Sickles in his anomalous position; whereas the latter proclaims to the world that he had to "fight alone the battle of Gettysburg!"

Again, he claims that his position taken in front saved the general line from capture and also the two Round Tops. Now, had Gen. Sickles prolonged his line from the left of the Second Corps along the general line from Cemetery Hill, he might have spread out his troops to occupy at least Little Round Top on his left. pancy of that hill between the troops of Vincent and Hood, in which the former and two other brave General officers lost their lives.

Gen. Sickles, in referring to his position and his fighting in that particular position, says disputes that they did hard fighting. No one disputes the gallantry of his men on that or any other field, for their splendid record is a part of our history, of which we are proud. 5,000 brave men who were taken by their commanding General to an exposed position which, being enfladed on both angles by the guns of a sanguine foe, laid down their lives in maintaining this false position? It may be an indication of great bravery; it may be worthy of immortal honor to claim a whole battle under such circumstances; but still we cannot but have our doubts as to whether the "end justifies the means." One thing we do know, in our long association with Gen. Meade, we always found him to be a careful, cautious commander, who never would consent to the useless

The Fales Family. EDITOR NATIONAL TRIBUNE: In 1861 there lived in Thomaston, Me., three families named family three boys, all there were, enlisted, sons to the army, who went through and came One came home having lost the use of a foot, and another the use of a leg. One was killed at

staid five months, came home, and died in 15 days from the effects of the treatment received. The youngest was killed at Port Hudson.-F. N. S., Thomaston, Me.

THE 7th VERMONT.

Tribute to the Green Mountain Boys from an Ohio Comrade. EDITOR NATIONAL TRIBUNE: The statement of J. H. Smith, Co. A, 6th Mich., in regard to the loss of the colors of the 7th Vt. seems to be a mistake. The affair happened at the battle of Baton Rouge, fought Aug. 5, 1862, and not at Port Hudson, as Mr. Smith says. Capt. Manning, of the 4th Mass, battery, in his report of the battle, alleged that one Donoghue, a private in his command, brought off the colors of the 7th Vt. from the field. Gen. Butler accordingly, in his congratulatory Order, No. 622, excepted the 7th from the permission granted the other regiments to inscribe the name of the battle on their flags. He also severely rebuked the regiment for cowardice, and prohibited it from carrying its colors for an indefinite time. In the same order he thanked private Donoghue for bringing the flags away. This censure remained in full force until

shortly before Gen. Butler left the department, when a court of inquiry, which had been convened at the instance of Gov. Holbrook, of Vermont, made up its finding. This showed that when the regiment fell back to the second position occupied by our troops that morning. and which was to the rear of our camps, the small regimental "markers" used by the right and left guides on drill, and a sort of garrison flag, which had not been used for any military purpose for a long time, were left behind. These were the flags which private Donoghue picked up as he came through the camp of the 7th Vt., and not the regimental colors as had been assumed by Capt. Manning in his report, and upon which assumption Gen. Butler had acted in making his order.

Thereupon Gen. Butler approved the finding of the court, and by another General Order admitted the mistake and restored to the regiment its colors. The court also substantially relieved the regiment from the other charges of bad conduct made or implied in Order No. 621, such as its firing into the 21st Ind., by explaining the circumstances under which the battle was fought, and apparently imputing the untoward event to the stress of misfortune rather than to the fault of the soldiers. The morale of the regiment had been severely shaken by disease contracted in its service that Summer before Vicksburg; the action was fought at daybreak with the field obscured by a dense fog and the smoke of battle; the movements of the enemy were uncertain and confusing; changes of position were made necessary when the real point of attack was developed, and Col. Roberts was mortally wounded early in the fight, at a time when both the other field officers were temporarily absent on duty in another part of the field. The finding of the court conclusively showed that the colors were kept with the regiment through the action, and that they were brought off by the regiment at its close. During the remainder of my stay in the department I heard nothing of the conduct of the 7th Vt. to justify the imputation of cowardice, but its bearing on every occasion seemed to warrant the opposite conclusion .- C. R.

EXPLOSIVE MUSKET-BALLS. A Whole Volley of Letters From Comrades on the

It has been charged against Gen. Meade that Whether or not the Confederate soldiers used explosive musket-balls, there is no question that the letter of Comrade Hibbs, Co. D. 17th Iowa, was of a very explosive character. The pieces flew in every direction, judging from the very large number of letters to THE NATIONAL TRIBUNE on the subject. These are so numerous that it is impossible for us to publish them in full. The weight of evidence that such missiles were used would seem to be sufficient to convince Comrade Hibbs, who appears to be a sort of "doubting Thomas."

Paul C. Morgan, Co. E, 2d. N. H., Ayer, Mass., says that at the battle of Williamsburg, May 5, 1862, he took from a rebel prisoner 22 car- earth. tridges, which he minutely describes. They were hollow and contained explosive material so arranged as to be discharged on striking an

E. L. Farechild, Co. H. 72d Ill., Blue Mound, Kan., says that Gen. Grant knew whereof he spoke when he said that the rebels used explosive balls at Vicksburg. He says that some of his comrades found a number of these balls in a magazine near that place. They experimented with them and found that they exploded easily, scattering the fragments in every direction. The size of the ball was the same as that carried by the old Harper's Ferry musket. Chas. H. Lynch, Co. C, 18th Conn., Hartford,

Conn., writes that at the battle of Snicker's Ford, in the Shenandoah Valley, the rebels used musket-balls which exploded with a snap on striking the ground or other object. He has large number of his comrades will bear evi- done.' dence to these facts. B. F. Shearer, Co. C, 32d Ohio, Plymouth,

Ind., says that while doing police duty in Vicksburg after the surrender members of his company found a large number of explosive W. H. Weston, First Lieutenant, Co. B, 16th Ind., Cherryvale, Kan., says he was at Vicks-

burg and knows that the Confederates used explosive balls, about caliber 69. The shell was of lead, and was charged with powder and a substance that looked like the business end of a friction match. These balls exploded easily

Henry A. Langenberg, Co. G, 22d Iowa, Washington, Iowa, has in his possession an explosive bullet fired from a rebel gun at Vicks-

J. W. Delano, Co. G. 65th Ohio, Davenport, Iowa, writes that during the Atlanta campaign he saw rebel bullets which, though perhaps not strictly explosive, were hollow, with a wooden plug, which by the firing of the gun would be driven in spreading the ball. He says that these were very common during that year of

J. H. Smith, Co. A, 6th Mich., South Bend, Ind., writes that at the siege of Port Hudson the enemy fired balls which exploded on striking anything. One of these struck the gun barrel of George W. Williams, Co. K, of his regiment, and by its explosion his face was badly injured by the fragments. He was taken to the hospital, and the next day the doctor removed seven pieces of the metal from his face. His eyes were so badly injured that he was blind for a number of days. His sight was partially restored, but remains weak to this day. He lives at Edwardsburg, Cass Co., Mich. John C. Livezey, Captain, 36th Ind., New Castle, Ind., has in his possession an evplosive

ball which struck the ground near him .n front of Corinth, Miss. J. R. King, Co. D. 4th W. Va., Belpre, O., also has an explosive ball in his possession which he would be glad to exhibit to Comrade Hibbs. It was fired from the rebel lines at Vicksburg. Frank S. Wells, Co. H. 45th Ill., Prairie Star.

Neb., has two explosive musket-balls which he got at Vicksburg. One of them had been exploded, and the other, which had not been fired, still contains the powder and phosphorus in the cavity.

J. Q. A. Campbell, Lieutenant, 5th Iowa, Bellefontaine, O., remembers distinctly that explosive balls were used by the rebels. He was incredulous himself until he saw them. The story was that the rebels got them from Europe.

Another Question.

EDITOR NATIONAL TRIBUNE: I have in my possession a leather waist belt two inches wide. The buckle is made of large brass wire. It hooks together in front with a brass S, each end of the hook or S made in the shape of a serpent's head, and back of each head for about three-fourths of an inch scales cover the body. In the center, midway between the heads, are two small bands encircling the body and inclosing some leaves that extend on either side the bands. This belt came from the U. S. General Hospital at Keokuk, Iowa, in 1865, when the hospital was discontinued, and is said to have been worn in the Confederate service. Did the Johnnies wear this pattern of a belt? It has no marks of ever being worn as a sword belt, there never having been slings attached on which to hang a saber.-George M. Dean, Captain, 9th Iowa Cav., Waukon, Iowa.

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CONDENSED LETTERS.

Robert Williams, Co. I, 1st Iowa, Vancouver, Wash. Ter., sends an excellent defense of the 1st Iowa from the charge of having been routed at Wilson's Creek. THE NATIONAL TRIB-UNE has already yielded a large amount of space to the comrades of this gallant regiment, and they have made good use of it by abundantly disproving the charge and effectually repelling Capt. Cracklin's unintentional assault upon their good name and fame. The documentary evidence cited by Comrade Williams has already been published.

John J. Bennett, Co. I, 146th N. Y., wonders how it was that many of the soldiers saw so much of the various battles. He says he generally had all he could attend to without watching other companies and regiments. He gives some of his recollections of Gettysburg. | matter of their just claims against the Govern-John A. Jones, Corp., Co. D, 64th Ill., Strum, ment. Wis., tells of the part his command took in the battle of Bentonville. He was in Gen. Fuller's Brigade, consisting of the 27th and 39th | giving a sketch of her work and adventures Ohio, 18th Mo. and 64th Ill.-First Brigade,

First Division, Seventeenth Corps. Wm. Defebaugh, Co. G, 113th Ohio, Seely, Kan., writes of a Confederate picket who deserted his post at the foot of Lookout Mountain in November, 1863, swam the Tennessee River and made his way to the Union Camp. Comrade Defebaugh's sympathies were so greatly aroused that he took the shoes from his own feet and gave them to the barefooted deserter. Some of the boys "chipped in" a blouse and other articles of clothing and made him very comfortable. Comrade Defebaugh will be glad to hear from the deserter if he is living. He also says that he has in his possession a Bible picked up at Bentonville with the name of Henry J. Kempson written in it. He will be glad to return it to the owner.

H. A. Tripp, 29th Me., Blue Hill, Me., claims that Lieut.-Col. Bailey, 4th Wis., originated the idea of the Red River dam, and that it was built under his direction. In evidence he cites Gen. Banks, Col. Isaac Dyer, 15th Me.; Lieut.-Col. Geo. B. Drake, A. A.-G. to Gen. Banks; Col. J. G. Wilson, A. D. C.; Brig.-Gen. W. H. Emory, commanding First Division, Nineteenth Corps, and Rear-Admiral D. D. Porter. The latter said: "Words are inadequate to express the admiration I feel for the abilities of Lieut.-Col. Bailey. This is without doubt, the | Pine Island, Minn., wonders if the members of best engineering feat ever performed. \* \* his regiment-the "Jayhawkers"-areall dead, The highest honors the Government can bestow | as he never hears from them through THE NAon Col. Bailey can never repay him for the TIONAL TRIBUNE. He says the regiment services he has rendered the country."

New Philadelphia, O., says Comrade Curtis, in F. H. B. Baker, Pekin, Ind., does not see how THE NATONAL TRIBUNE of Sept. 30, was in anybody can believe the statements contained error in saying that the 60th Ind. was one of in the article recently published from the pen the regiments surrendered at Mundfordville, of the rebel Col. Morgan, in which he narrates Ky. He says that at the time of the surrender | his miraculous exploits in routing large bodies the 60th Ind. was at Bowling Green and of Union cavalry at Gettysburg and elsewhere. Lebanon Junction, and marched back to Louis- | Comrade Baker would like some information ville with Buell's army.

word for Battery C, 5th U.S. Art., to which he | troops engaged, etc. belonged. He says the battery contained 56 young men all under age when they enlisted at Easton in September, 1861. They served five years and nine months, being mustered out | the Army of the Potomac, fought in 25 different in 1867. The battery was in all the prominent | engagements, captured 19 prisoners, and lost his battles of the Army of the Potomac, being | right leg and left an arm at or near Appomatattached at various times to the First, Second, | tox Court-house. Fifth and Ninth Corps. Of the 56 young men | C. W. Lyon, Co. E, 1st Me. Cav., Houlton, eferred to but 12 or 13 are now living.

danger of having it destroyed by anybody. Jno. C. Livezey, Captain, Co. C, 36th Ind., New Castle, Ind., replying to Comrade Blundin, 28th Pa., who claimed that the battle of Lookout Mountain was fought solely by the "White Star" men, says that his brigade, of the Fourth Corps, was very actively engaged in that fight, and there is no question that other troops besides the Twentieth Corps bore an honorable part in that battle. He says there were no better troops in the army than the Twentieth Corps, but they must not claim the entire

H. M. Biggs, Sergeant, Co. G, 37th Ill., and Captain, 92d U. S. C. T., of Portland, Ore., endeavors to harmonize the accounts given by Lieut, Hill and Maj. Poole of the Marmaduke raid. He says the river mentioned by one of them was not the Big Black, but the St. Francis, as there is no river called the Big Black west of the Mississippi. In regard to the state-ment that some of the Union soldiers were killed by the fire of their own batteries be says: "Our batteries were using some captured ammunition, and much of it exploded prematurely. Capt. Bell, of Co. G, was on my left, and Lieut. Joseph Eaton, of Co. H, on my right. A shell dropped among us and exploded. A piece about two inches square went crashing in at Lieut. Eaton's left ear, killing him instantly. The concussion of the shell knocked me over, and it was thought at first that I, too, was one of them in his possession, and says that a killed; but that was all the damage that was

Jacob F. Goltry, 37th Ind., Zero, Iowa, insists that a portion at least of the Fourteenth Corps was engaged in the fight at New Hope Church, on the Atlanta campaign. His regiment was in the Third Brigade, First Division of that corps, and his company lost five killed and 14 wounded on the banks of Pumpkin Vine Creek

on the evening of May 21, 1864. The Colonel of the 21st Ohio lost an arm that day. G. A. Johns, Co. K, 1st Iowa, Mt. Vernon, Iowa, fires a shot at Capt. Cracklin for saying that the 1st Iowa broke in disorder and did not rally at Wilson's Creek. He says the 1st Iowa

went there to stay as long as anybody. John Housian, Fort Fetterman, Wyo. Ter., writes that he served in Co. I, 2d U. S. Dragoons, in Texas in 1853, at the time the so-called Sibley tent was invented and introduced. He says that he and Private Angell, of that company, were the inventors of the tent, and that Maj. Sibley stole it from them and gave them

nothing for it. H. S. Archer, Co. H. 28th Me., Randolph, Mass., urges upon his comrades the importance of supporting only candidates for Congress who are pledged to advance their interests in the

S. M. Phelps, Co. G, 45th Ill., Jerico, Mo., suggests that a letter from Mother Bickerdyke as an army nurse, would be of great interest to the comrades of the Western Army who knew her so well. She was at Topeka, Kan., at the Reunion, and was received by the boys with tremendous enthusiasm. C. Bergk, Shields, Ind., is very anxious to

hear from any member of his old regiment. He is glad to see that the ex-prisoners of war are waking up, and he hopes they will do all in their power to urge the passage of the bill now before Congress granting them pensions. J. C. Conner, Sergeant, 9th N. Y. Cav., Richford, Vt., thinks he can straighten out Comrade Lindsley, Co. G, 1st N. Y. Dragoons, in regard to the brigade that he belonged to. He says the 9th N. Y. Cav., 6th N. Y. Cav., 17th Pa. Cav. and 1st N. Y. Dragoons, composed the

Second Brigade, First Division, Cavalry Corps, commanded by Gen. Deven. F. McAdams, Sergeant, Co. E, 113th Ohio, Richwood, O., says: "'Carleton' puts the distance from Chattanooga to Atlanta at 75 miles, when it should be 136 miles, and very long ones, too. He also speaks of Bragg and his army being swept from Mission Ridge in the last week of October, 1863. This 'sweeping' occurred Nov. 25, 1863, as I have reason to remember.

Samuel R. Scribner, Co. F. 7th Kan. Cav., served through the entire war, participating in Jno. H. Dickson, Sergeant, Co. I, 60th Ind., 27 hard-fought battles, besides many skirmishes.

from anyone who was in the batte of Port Re-John J. Gangwer, Easton, Pa., says a good public June 9, 1862, as to the commanders,

J. Kineer, Franklin, Pa., writes that his friend, George O. Ellis, now a member of Post 220, G.A.R., Franklin, Pa., served four years in

Me., savs Comrade Charles Shattuck was wron Jacob Fink, First Lieutenant, Co. D. 55th Ill., in saying that the First Brigade, Second Divis-Canton, Ill., did not see anything in Gen. | ion, Cavalry Corps, was composed of the 1st Leggett's article on the battle of Atlanta that Me., 1st R. I., 4th N. Y. and 6th Ohio. would injure the reputation of the Fifteenth | The 1st Me. never was in the First Brigade Corps. He says the members of that Corps | In October, 1864, the Third Brigade of the Secwere too well-known through the Western ond Division was formed, consisting of the 1st Army as both soldiers and foragers to be in Me., 2d N. Y. Mounted Rifles, 13th and 6th

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